

Early Education Matching Grant (EEMG) Program
Frequently Asked Questions
RFF Years 3 & 4
December 2015

1. How involved should our partner be in the application process?

Both parties should be involved in the drafting of the RFF for a cohesive grant application and plan for the use of grant dollars. Certainly one agency can take the lead but both should be involved.

2. If a program is planning to utilize grant funds in 3 classrooms, in three sites, in one agency, with community partners assisting, should the program complete one RFF or 3 separate proposals – 1 per site?

Because Paths to QUALITY™ is site specific, each site must meet eligibility but all 3 could be included on a single RFF from your agency.

3. Does the match have to be paid up front by July 2016? Our current match provider has us bill them monthly?

The RFF requires a letter documenting the agency that has obligated the match dollars. When your first claim is filed in September, you must submit documentation that at least ½ your match has been RECEIVED so the state can reimburse funds to you. Past and current EEMG grant recipients have commented that it is helpful if your match grantee is able to grant those funds in the beginning for start up costs, this can be very helpful for programs to cover the time of processing that claim.

4. Can the match come from the school's general fund?

We would always refer you to DOE for match guidance, but yes, those would be considered unrestricted funds from our diagram on the slides and some schools are using general funds. But there may be stipulations to consider if using those funds, so please contact Erin Kissling at DOE for guidance. Her phone # 317.234.6523 and email is ekissling@doe.in.gov.

Please remember also one component of this grant is to build that community support and partnership for pre-k through the match dollars.

5. If we did not submit a letter of intent by the November 20, 2015 deadline, is the window of opportunity closed?

Absolutely not! The letter of intent was optional to assist in preparing to screen the received RFF's – it was not a requirement and we would encourage you to apply!

6. If your partner is a school, do they have to meet the Level 3 or Level 4 Paths to QUALITY rating?

Yes, all entities in a partnership grant RFF must meet the eligibility criteria for programs.

7. Can Federal Funds be used for the match?

No, federal funds cannot be used.

8. Can the ISTAR-KR assessment training be included in our grant funding?

Professional development is certainly an area that the grant can fund; however, there are currently trainings available through DOE and IACCRR that could be used to train staff without costs. The OECOSL is also willing to provide training and technical assistance if there are several "new" programs needing this training.

9. On the Budget Summary sheet – Form 7 – should we list the total cost per child or for the program?

Please complete the budget table to identify the total program cost. You will include the cost per child in the Cover Sheet and in your budget narrative.

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10. What are the chances of being funded if you don't have a joint partner?

Just as good as if you did! There is no advantage to a partner application other than the 3 points given in the competitive preference points for the applicant. The RFF overall is worth 100 points, so all applications will be scored equally.

11. What is Paths to QUALITY?

Paths to QUALITY™ is Indiana's quality rating information system (QRIS) Paths to QUALITY is dedicated to supporting the well-being and success of all Indiana children through a statewide system that improves child development and age-appropriate learning experiences, promotes high quality child care, and supports and empowers parents as teachers and decision makers. Please refer to page 27 of the RFF or <http://www.in.gov/fssa/2554.htm>.

12. What family income eligibility is used for the EEMG grant program?

To qualify as an eligible child, the child must be a member of a household with an annual income that does not exceed 100% of the federal poverty level.

13. What are the age requirements for the child?

The child must be 4 years old by August 1, 2016 or 2017 for year 2, to be eligible for this grant to attend kindergarten the year following.

14. Does the child have to live in Indiana?

Yes, the child has to be a resident of Indiana or otherwise have legal settlement in Indiana

15. Who determines eligibility of the child/family?

The eligible program will help families complete enrollment forms and determine eligibility. This will be monitored by FSSA.

16. How does a parent "pay" for this program?

Funds are claimed by the eligible provider to the state and their matching grant funds to pay the budgeted amount determined by their application.

17. Do parents have a co-pay amount?

Not for the pre-k program offered by the center. Each center has determined by application the number of hours their program will be offered. If additional hours are needed by the parent not covered by the program, the parent may be asked to pay for these additional hours. (may use CCDF funds if eligible and currently receiving)

18. What are attendance requirements of the EEMG grant program?

A program must provide a minimum of 180 days of either a part-time (min. 2½ hrs per day) or full time (min. 5 hrs per day) prekindergarten program. The parent agrees in the parent agreement their child will attend a minimum of 85% of days offered.

19. Are parents required to volunteer in the classroom?

Parents are not required but many programs encourage participation. There is a required parent engagement component to the grant, requiring programs to plan and implement parent engagement activities. These activities vary by program but all programs are required to engage parents.

20. Will these children be evaluated?

Yes, classroom teachers will administer the ISTAR-KR adopted by the DOE in both the fall and spring. Indiana University IN Institute on Disability and Community was awarded a contract to evaluate children's learning and readiness for kindergarten, family

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engagement and relationship to learning, differences across settings, children and families, and classroom activities/interactions and relationships to learning.

21. Are parents required to have a service need (working/going to school) to be eligible for this grant program?

No, there is no service need attached to this grant. This would only be required if CCDF is being used to wrap-around the pre-k day for additional services.

22. What are the qualifications of the PreK Teacher?

The teacher in the classroom must have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in early childhood education or equivalent as defined by NAEYC.

<http://www.naeyc.org/academy/degreeequivalents>

All other assistants would need to meet Paths to QUALITY™ education requirements for Level Three or Level Four.

23. Is there a required curriculum for the programs?

Programs are not required to use a particular curriculum but must show how the curriculum addresses school readiness outcomes, explain how the curriculum is connected to the Foundation standards, show how they connect the curriculum with family engagement and how they use parent perspectives to inform program experience.

24. What if a child moves or leaves the program?

The program should replace any student who leaves the program with another eligible student within 4 weeks of the date of disenrollment.

25. Can foster parents enroll foster children who meet child eligibility?

Yes, as long as they have a valid foster license. If child status is documented, foster parent's income is exempt and they do not need to meet income eligibility guidelines.